

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1        1. A method of converting a mixture of short and  
2        long tobacco particles into a rod-like filler, compris-  
3        ing the steps of:

4                segregating the short particles of the mixture  
5        from the long particles;

6                advancing an elongated stream of segregated long  
7        particles along a predetermined path; and

8                admitting into the path short particles for hetero-  
9        geneous distribution in the stream.

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